Kimmerosaurus

Kimmerosaurus ("lizard from Kimmeridge") is an extinct genus of plesiosaur from the family Cryptoclididae.[1] *Kimmerosaurus* is most closely related to *Tatenectes*.

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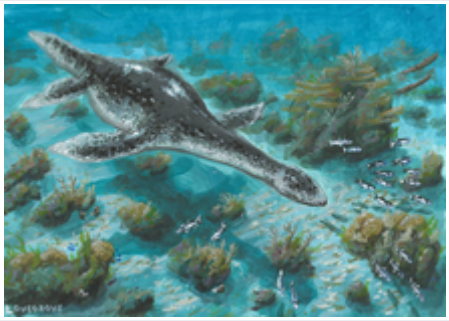
Kimmerosaurus

Temporal range: Tithonian, 150.8–145.5 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Late Jurassic



Restoration

Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	†Plesiosauria
Suborder:	†Plesiosauroidea
Family:	†Cryptoclididae
Genus:	†***Kimmerosaurus*** Brown, 1981

Binomial name

†***Kimmerosaurus langhami*** Brown, 1981

Description

As *Kimmerosaurus* is known from only a skull (and a few cervical vertebrae), much of the plesiosaur's description comes from its teeth,[2] which are recurved and buccolingually compressed (compressed cheek-side to tongue-side). The premaxilla has only eight teeth, while there are thirty-six teeth on each ramus.[3] The parietals of *Kimmerosaurus* do not form a sagittal crest.[3] The overall skull of *Kimmerosaurus* is similar to *Cryptoclidus* but much more broad.

Discovery

Cliffs of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation, which formed during the Jurassic period, are where the first *Kimmerosaurus* fossils were found.

There are very few fossil remains of *Kimmerosaurus* known. In fact, nothing has been found to show what *Kimmerosaurus* may have looked like below the neck, although the atlas and the axis are similar to those of the plesiosaur *Colymbosaurus*. It is this lack of any post-cranial fossils, and the bone similarities that has led to the belief that *Kimmerosaurus* fossils could be the missing head of *Colymbosaurus*, a similar plesiosaur with no known skull fossils.[2]

The first part of the genus name of *Kimmerosaurus* comes from the location of the first *Kimmerosaurus* fossils, Kimmeridge Clay deposits of Dorset, England (these deposits are also the root word for

the Kimmeridgian stage of the Jurassic period). The second part comes from the Greek word *σαυρος* (*sauros*), "lizard".[2]

Palaeoecology

Kimmerosaurus fossils are found in the Kimmeridge Clay Formation near the town of Kimmeridge, in Dorset, England. This animal may have ranged through much of what is now the Jurassic Coast, a world heritage site in the southern United Kingdom.

See also

- List of plesiosaur genera
- Timeline of plesiosaur research

References

1. Ketchum, H. F.; Benson, R. B. J. (2010). "Global interrelationships of Plesiosauria (Reptilia, Sauropterygia) and the pivotal role of taxon sampling in determining the outcome of phylogenetic analyses". *Biological Reviews*. **85**: 361–392. doi:10.1111/j.1469-185X.2009.00107.x (https://doi.org/10.1111%2Fj.1469-185X.2009.00107.x). PMID 20002391 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20002391).
2. "Plesiosaur.com entry on Kimmerosaurus" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080625022653/http://www.plesiosaur.com/database/genusIndividual.php?i=37). Archived from the original (http://www.plesiosaur.com/database/genusIndividual.php?i=37) on 2008-06-25. Retrieved 2008-04-22.
3. Brown, David S.; 1981b; The English Upper Jurassic Plesiosauroidea (Reptilia) and a review of the phylogeny and classification of the Plesiosauria; Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History), Geology; 35(4) pp.253-347

External links

- Entry on *Kimmerosaurus* (https://web.archive.org/web/20080625022653/http://www.plesiosaur.com/database/genusIndividual.php?i=37) at The Plesiosaur Site
- Palaeos Vertebrates entry (https://web.archive.org/web/20080414142638/http://www.palaeos.com/Vertebrates/Units/220Lepidosauromorpha/220.820.html#Kimmerosaurus)

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